

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**  
**BA-3074**  
**House, 7532 Marks Avenue**  
**Overlea, Baltimore County**  
**ca. 1925**  
**Private**

The single-family dwelling at 7532 Marks Avenue was constructed circa 1925 in the turn of the 20th century neighborhood historically known as Fullerton. The community of Fullerton, since absorbed within the Baltimore City suburb of Overlea, was established on agricultural land owned in the 1870s by A. Deemer. Designed in the Craftsman style, the bungalow is one of a few extant dwellings that were designed and constructed by the developers in the first decades of the 20th century. The commercial development of Belair Road, which bounded Fullerton to the northwest, has resulted in the loss and/or alteration of many of these imposing dwellings. The dwelling at 7532 Marks Avenue is representative of the infill construction that took place in the community during the second quarter of the 20th century.

The vernacular building presents a bungaloid form with Craftsman style elements. Square in plan, the modest wood frame building stands one-and-a-half stories in height with a full width front porch, shed dormers, and paired window openings. The structure is set on a rock-faced concrete block foundation, and is clad with narrow vinyl siding. An exterior end brick chimney topped with a corbeled cap pierces the steeply pitched side gable roof, which is clad with asphalt shingles. The chimney is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond and has a single shoulder. The pitch of the roof slopes on the front and rear elevations, creating full-width inset porches. A large shed roof dormer, clad in vinyl siding, protrudes from the southeast slope of the roof, while a smaller shed roof dormer projects from the northwest slope.

Inventory No. BA-3074

**1. Name of Property** (indicate preferred name)

## historic

other

## 2. Location

street and number 7532 Marks Avenue/7527-1/2 Belair Road not for publication

city, town Baltimore - vicinity

county Baltimore County

**3. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Fullerton Per Loan Association of the 12th District

street and number 7527 Belair Road

telephone

city, town	Baltimore	state	MD	zip code	21236-4141
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#### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel m. 81, p. 527

city, town	Towson	liber	10449	folio	420
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## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
___district	___public	___agriculture	___landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  X  </u> building(s)	<u>  X  </u> private	___commerce/trade	___recreation/culture	<u>  1  </u>	<u>  2  </u> buildings
___structure	___both	___defense	___religion	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
___site		<u>  X  </u> domestic	___social	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
___object		___education	___transportation	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
		___funerary	___work in progress	<u>  1  </u>	<u>  2  </u> Total
		___government	___unknown		
		___health care	___vacant/not in use		
		___industry	___other:		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b> <div>0</div>	

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-3074

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one-paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The single-family dwelling at 7532 Marks Avenue was constructed in the mid-1920s. The vernacular building presents a bungalow form with Craftsman style elements. Square in plan, the modest wood frame building stands one-and-a-half stories in height with a full width front porch, shed dormers, and paired window openings. The structure is set on a rock-faced concrete block foundation, and is clad with narrow vinyl siding. An exterior end brick chimney topped with a corbeled cap pierces the steeply pitched side gable roof, which is clad with asphalt shingles. The chimney is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond and has a single shoulder. The pitch of the roof slopes on the front and rear elevations, creating full-width inset porches. A large shed roof dormer, clad in vinyl siding, protrudes from the southeast slope of the roof, while a smaller shed roof dormer projects from the northwest slope.

### EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The three bay wide façade of the dwelling faces southeast to Marks Avenue. The inset porch that extends the full width of the façade dominates the first story. Set on rock-faced concrete block piers, the porch has a wooden floor and front steps. A replacement wrought-iron balustrade and posts support the roof, which extends from the roof of the main block. The centrally placed entry on the first story holds a Craftsman style single-leaf door of wood. This door has eight lights over two vertical panels and a square-edged surround. Two standard sized window openings flank the entry. These openings hold 1/1 double-hung, wood sash windows with square-edged surrounds.

The dormer protruding from the southeast façade of the building is exceptionally large although in scale with the modest dwelling. The shed roof of the dormer extends from the ridge of the main roof. Vinyl siding covers the structure of the face and cheeks of the dormer. A pair of 1/1 double-hung, wood sash windows pierce the center of the dormer face. It is surrounded by square-edged casings and has a wide square-edged mullion.

The northeast elevation of the building is approximately three bays wide, with asymmetrically placed window openings. The slightly raised rock-faced concrete block foundation is pierced by two rectangular window openings. These openings hold fixed one-light wood windows with a wood sill. The first story has three window openings, all holding 1/1 double-hung, wood sash. The southernmost bay has a paired window that is indicative of the style and period. The center and northernmost bays have smaller single windows. Each of the windows is finished with square-edged casings, wood sills, and straight lintels. The half-story has two openings, a single-leaf entry and a standard size window. The entry, accessed by modern wooden steps, holds a four-light paneled door sheltered by an aluminum storm door. The abutting window opening has a 1/1 double-hung, wood sash window. The square-edged casing of the window and the wider mullion between the two openings suggests the entry was originally part of a pair window. Two small louvered ventilators pierce the upper gable of the wall.

The northwest elevation presents a façade to Belair Road; with a concrete walk way extending from the house to the road. A full-width porch that is partially infilled to provide additional living space, dominates the first story of this elevation. Accessed by concrete steps, the porch remains open on the eastern end. The porch has

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an enclosed balustrade with vinyl cladding. A square post supports the roof at the northern corner. The easternmost bay of the first story, within the porch, has a 1/1 double-hung, wood sash window with square-edged casings. The face of the enclosed part of the porch has two equally spaced window openings with square-edged casings. The openings hold 1/1 double-hung, wood sash windows. A single-leaf entry opening is located on the northeast side of the enclosed porch. The casings, windows, door, and materials used in the construction and fenestration of the porch indicate it was originally designed to be partially enclosed, thus this is not an alteration. The second story of the northwest elevation has a shed roof dormer clad with vinyl siding. This dormer, smaller than that on the façade, has paired 1/1 double-hung, wood sash windows.

Two one-light fixed windows with wood sills pierce the slightly raised basement of the southwest elevation. A metal bulkhead to the basement is located at the northern end. A cantilevered oriel window, with a boxed shape, projects from the first story. This oriel, set slightly north of the center bay, has a steeply pitched shed roof clad with asphalt shingles. It is clad with vinyl siding and pierced by a single 1/1 double-hung, wood sash window. To the north of the oriel is a 1/1 double-hung, wood sash window. To the south is the single-shouldered chimney. This chimney protrudes slightly from the plane of the wall before projecting through the main roof. Two fixed multi-light Craftsman style windows flank the chimney. The half-story of this elevation has a pair of 1/1 double-hung, wood sash windows. A small louvered ventilator is located in the gable end. All of the openings, save those in the basement level, have square-edged casings, wood sills, and straight lintels.

The interior of the building was not accessible at the time of the survey. Two prefabricated metal sheds are located to the west of the dwelling.

### Rock-faced Concrete Blocks

Patented in 1900, rock-faced concrete block instantly became one of the leading building materials in the United States. The concrete blocks were a cheap, quick, and easy alternative to more traditional materials, with a block costing between thirteen and twenty cents to make in 1910. Advertisers also pointed out that it was fireproof, required no paint, and needed little care. Notwithstanding all these advantages, one of the most important reasons for the popularity of concrete block was its ornamental possibilities.<sup>1</sup> A combination of changes in both taste and technology in the 1930s led the industry to shift production to the more utilitarian and less decorative plainface block.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Pamela H. Simpson, *Cheap, Quick, and Easy: Imitative Architectural Materials, 1870-1930*. (Knoxville, TN: the University of Tennessee, 1999), p. 23.

<sup>2</sup> Simpson, p. 27.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Specific dates** ca 1925-1950

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** ca 1925

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The single-family dwelling at 7532 Marks Avenue was constructed circa 1925 in the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century neighborhood historically known as Fullerton. The community of Fullerton, since absorbed within the Baltimore City suburb of Overlea, was established on agricultural land owned in the 1870s by A. Deemer. Designed in the Craftsman style, the bungalow is one of a few extant dwellings that were designed and constructed by the developers in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The commercial development of Belair Road, which bounded Fullerton to the northwest, has resulted in the loss and/or alteration of many of these imposing dwellings. The dwelling at 7532 Marks Avenue is representative of the infill construction that took place in the community during the second quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### History of Fullerton

The history of the property in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century community of Fullerton dates back to the extension of Belair Road, which was initially laid in a northeasterly direction to the community of Bel Air from the City of Baltimore. As early as 1850, Belair Road was heavily developed and populated in the area immediately surrounding the city. Roughly ten miles away from the city, however, Belair Road was still not heavily populated. This area, where the road traversed White Marsh Run, was dotted by small farms, with only a very few buildings set close to the road. Primarily members of the Fitch and Fowler families inhabited this land in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. As the city of Baltimore expanded beyond its existing limits, this land became one of its primary suburbs.<sup>3</sup>

By the third quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Belair Road/White Marsh Run area was still without a name, and the nearest post office was located in the neighboring community of Parkville. Parkville, home to the Lavender Hill Post Office, was situated a short distance to the northwest along the Harford Turnpike. Nonetheless, the area was beginning to develop with oddly shaped lots and irregular street patterns.<sup>4</sup> The 1877 county map indicates the property destined to become Fullerton was owned and/or occupied by A. Deemer. As indicated by the map, the land had not yet been subdivided into smaller residential lots and was improved with only one residential building that was located at the southeast corner of Belair Road and Fullerton Avenue.

<sup>3</sup> J. C. Sidney, *Map of Baltimore City and County, Maryland, from Actual Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: J. M. Stephens, 1850), n.p.

<sup>4</sup> *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877), District Twelve.



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Between 1877 and 1915, Deemer's land was platted to include roughly twenty small residential lots. It was at this time that Marks Avenue was outlined to run parallel to Belair Road and then dead-end roughly halfway through the development known as Fullerton. Half of the residential lots created from Deemer's property fronted Belair Road, with the remaining lots on Marks Avenue. Deemer's dwelling at the corner of the property was retained during the subdivision and development of Fullerton. Surrounding neighborhoods that developed during this period include Overton, South Overlea, Overlea Park, and the Addition to Overlea.<sup>5</sup>

The Fullerton development has changed significantly since its original platting in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Nine of the Fullerton lots facing northwest on Belair Road were improved with residential structures by 1915. However, only one building from this period is extant. Located at 7531 Belair Road, this wood frame dwelling was substantially altered in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century by the construction of a commercial storefront. This alteration is indicative of the transition of this part of Belair Road from a residential community to a mixed-use area bisected by a major transportation corridor. The contemporary residential buildings fronting Belair Road have been demolished in order to construct commercial properties and parking lots.

In contrast, the lots fronting Marks Avenue have remained largely residential in character. Between five and ten dwellings on the southeast half of the Fullerton development date to the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These freestanding dwellings are interspersed by lots that were not developed until the 1940s and 1950s. To the east of Fullerton, across Marks Avenue, the land is sparsely developed with few residential building. It was used primarily for agricultural purposes, and has since been developed as a recreational park for the community.

With the growth of the adjacent community of Overlea to the south, the historic neighborhood of Fullerton has been absorbed and has largely lost its individual context. Overlea has continued to develop residentially and commercially. As the City of Baltimore increased in size through annexation of its suburbs, Overlea's distance from the city diminished. Thus, Overlea is now less than one mile from the city limits. This 20<sup>th</sup> century development has resulted in a considerable loss of area's late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings and businesses. Within the last twenty years, the properties just north of those on Marks Avenue were demolished for the construction of a gas station/convenience store at the intersection Belair Road and Henry Avenue. The turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century reveals continued development of this Baltimore suburb. A smaller community that has taken the name Fullerton has since developed along Belair Road, to the north of the Baltimore Beltway.

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<sup>5</sup> *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915), Districts Eleven and Fourteen.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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*Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877), District Twelve.  
Hollifield, William. *Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County*. Cockeysville, MD: Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978.  
*Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915), Districts Eleven and Fourteen.  
Offutt, E. Frances. *Baltimore County Landmarks*. Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1971).  
Sidney J. C. *Map of Baltimore City and County, Maryland, from Actual Surveys*. Baltimore, MD: J. M. Stephens, 1850.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property Less than one Acre  
Acreage of historical setting Less than one Acre  
Quadrangle name Baltimore East

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The building at 7532 Marks Avenue in historic Fullerton (now Overlea) is located on Parcel 526 as denoted on Map 81, Grid 16. The property is bounded by Marks Avenue to the south and Belair Avenue to the north. The dwelling has been associated with this property since its construction circa 1925.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. L. McDonald and L. V. Trieschmann, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics	date	August 31, 2000
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

STATES  
OF THE ARMY  
ENGINEERS

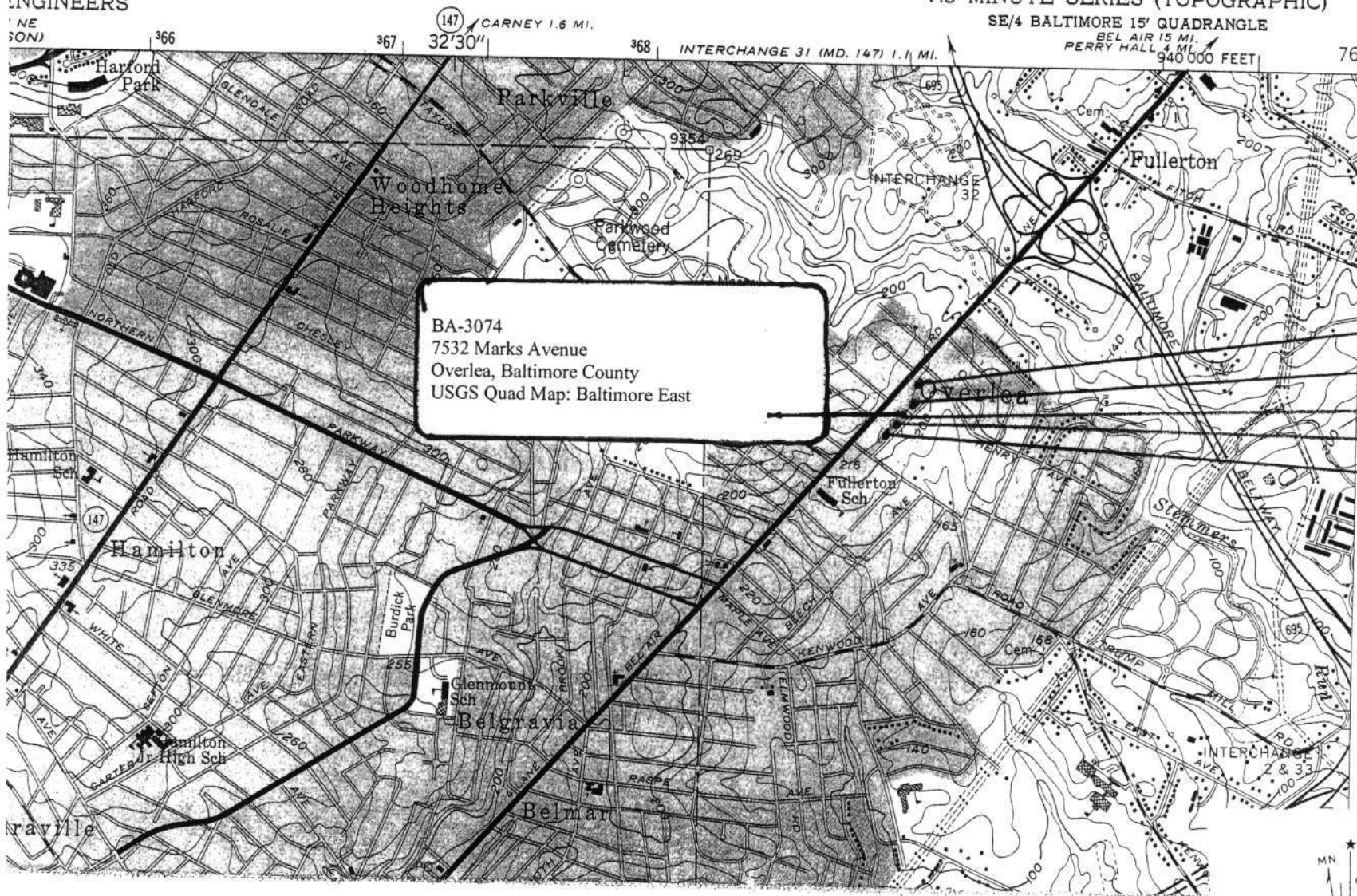
# BALTIMORE EAST QUADRANGLE

MARYLAND

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

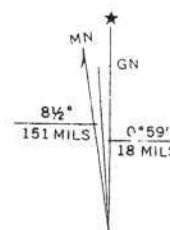
SE/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE

5762 IV NW  
(WHITE MARSH)



BA-3074  
7532 Marks Avenue  
Overlea, Baltimore County  
USGS Quad Map: Baltimore East

7531 BELAIR ROAD  
7534 MARKS ROAD  
7532 MARKS ROAD  
7530 MARKS ROAD  
7524 MARKS ROAD



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET





BA3074

1532 MARKS AVE (7527 1/2 BELAIR ROAD), OVERLEA  
BALTIMORE COUNTY  
TRACERIES

8/2000

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTH CORNER LOOKING NORTH

1 OF 4



BA-3074

7532 MARKS AVE (7527 1/2 BELAIR ROAD) OVERLEA

BALTIMORE

TRACERIES

8/2000

MARYLAND SHPO

EAST CORNER LOOKING WEST

2 OF 4





BA-3074

1532 MARKS AVE (1527 1/2 BELAIR RD) OVERLEA  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

TRACERIES

8/2000

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTHEAST ELEVATION, LOOKING WEST

3 OF 4



BA-3074

7532 MARKS AVE (7527 1/2 BELAIR RD) OVERLEA  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

TRACERIES

8/2000

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTHWEST ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

4 OF 4